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Politics Stalled Out

Ronald Reagan's top command is confident enough of the Republican candidate's chances of winning on November 4 to have begun drawing up Cabinet lists. The following is the current consensus of Reagan's advisers. It's by no means final, is still subject to jockeying among Cabinet contenders, and has not been subjected to a concerted clearance process, but I'm told the list has been discussed with Reagan himself. It is:

Secretary of State—George P. Shultz, president of the Bechtel Corporation, former secretary of labor and the treasury and director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Secretary of Defense—General Alexander Haig, president of United Technologies Corporation, former NATO commander and White House chief of staff under Richard Nixon.

Secretary of Treasury—William Simon, who held the same job under President Ford and would like something better under Reagan. If he refuses, Alan Greenspan, Ford's former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and currently Reagan's top economic adviser, is in line for the job.

Attorney General—William French Smith, senior partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and more importantly, Reagan's personal attorney.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development—Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, Reagan's 1976 vice presidential running mate. Schweiker also has the option of taking Health and Human Services. If he does, HUD will go to Representative Thomas Evans, the conservative congressman from Delaware.

Secretary of Commerce—Bill Brock, currently chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Secretary of Transportation—Drew Lewis, a Philadelphia industrialist and former Pennsylvania GOP chairman, currently the Reagan campaign's liaison man at the RNC.

Other Cabinet jobs—Agriculture, Labor, Education (which Reagan wants to abolish), Energy, and Interior are still question marks. Probably Reagan will want to hunt up a black or a Hispanic for one of these jobs, those groups being so far unrepresented in the current Reagan master list.

There is one woman slated for Cabinet rank—Anne Armstrong, former White House adviser and ambassador to Great Britain under Ford, who would become US ambassador to the United Nations under Reagan.

Other top jobs would be parceled out as follows:

CIA director—William Casey, a wartime OSS man, former SEC chairman, and Eximbank director, now Reagan's campaign manager.

Office of Management and Budget—Gerald R. Ford, who asked for the OMB responsibility during the failed negotiations to make him Reagan's vice presidential candidate, will be offered the job. If he refuses, it would go to either former HEW secretary Caspar Weinberger or Greenspan.

EXCERPTED

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